

Title: Who is the enemy?

Bible Verse: "Be on your guard and stay awake. Your enemy, the devil, is like a roaring lion, sneaking around to find someone to attack." 1 Peter 5:8

Bible Lesson: Jesus defeats Satan in the wilderness – Luke 4:1-13

That's Good to Know: Jesus gives us victory over the devil.

Lesson Overview: Satan is not just an enemy; he is our archenemy. The Word of God exposes Satan as the prince of darkness, father of lies, accuser of the brethren and the beguiling serpent. Paul said our fight against him is more important than any other battle we might face. "Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places," Ephesians 6:12, NAS. Satan is the enemy of our souls.

Our children in our care deserve to see the cartoon mask of Satan torn away, and we do them a disservice when we allow them to picture the enemy of their lives as a red-suited, horned-headed, pitchfork-carrying character. This cartoon concept of the devil comes from the Middle Ages when it became popular to make fun of Satan. Unfortunately, the silly images that were meant to attack Satan's pride became a source of softening the reality of the enemy. Our kids deserve to know that we have a real enemy.

Satan is a deceiver. One way he deceives us is to try to make us underestimate his strength. At other times, he can deceive us into overestimating his strength. When Satan persuades people to believe he does not exist, his power to control and destroy their lives can proceed without being detected or resisted. For people who will not accept Jesus into their lives yet believe in Satan's existence, his bait is lethal. They can become infatuated with the power and realities of darkness to the point of cult participation and ultimate destruction.

We and our children have a very real need to recognize, acknowledge and stand against the enemy of our souls – not in a cowering fear of Satan, but having a confidence in our Lord and His victory. Assure your kids through today's lesson that **Jesus gives us victory over the devil**, and that we are called to share in that victory.